

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated February 27, 2008. The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and they should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-9 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-9 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 5, and 8 have been amended. Claims 1-9 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,776,824) in view of Hara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,190,401).

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki.

Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims (claims 1, 5, and 8) are patentable over Suzuki and Hara (collectively "the cited references").

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward an apparatus and method for displaying an input image signal. Each of the claims recites "generating an image signal corresponding to a no-picture region of a display" and "setting a brightness level of the image signal for the no-picture region," wherein the "no-picture region" is a region

within the display which is not occupied by the input image signal. Each of the claims further recites that "the brightness level of the image signal for the no-picture region" is based on "an average brightness level of an input image signal." The "input image signal" does not include the "image signal for the no-picture region." For illustrative disclosure, reference is made to application page 28, lines 1-13.

Neither of the cited references discloses setting a brightness level of an image signal for a no-picture region based on an average brightness level of an input image signal, wherein the input image signal does not include the image signal for the no-picture region. In particular, Applicant notes that Suzuki does not disclose a no-picture region, let alone setting a brightness level for a no-picture region.

Suzuki discloses generating a dither signal corresponding to non-displayable component of an image signal. In Suzuki, "non-displayable component" refers to lower-order bits of the image signal that can not be represented because the display device being driven by the image signal lacks sufficient resolution. For example, if the display device has sufficient resolution to display only the 8 most significant bits of a 10 bit/pixel signal, Suzuki refers to the 8 most significant bits as the "displayable component" of the signal and refers to the 2 least significant bits as the "non-displayable component" of the signal. Further, Suzuki generates a "dithering signal" that is added to the 8 most significant bits for purposes of "simulating" the non-displayable component. (See e.g., Suzuki column 1, lines 64-67; column 2, lines 22-53; column 4, lines 48-59; and column 8, lines 15-30.) Accordingly, Suzuki does not include a "no-picture region." Rather, in Suzuki each pixel of the display corresponds to part of an image, and the value of the pixel is set to the value of the displayable component of the input image signal plus a dithering signal level. That is,

Suzuki does not generate an image signal for pixels that fall outside the picture region, but rather, generates a dither signal for pixels that fall within the picture region. Therefore, in Suzuki each pixel of the display device operates to display a portion of an image and no pixels can be said to be in a "no-picture region."

Since the cited references do not disclose setting a brightness level of an image signal for a no-picture region based on an average brightness level of an input image signal, wherein the input image signal does not include the image signal for the no-picture region, Applicant believes that claims 1, 5, and 8 are patentable over the cited references - taken either individually or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9 are believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claims 1, 5, and 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is  
gratefully acknowledged.

Dated: June 5, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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